



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Patent Application of
STEVEN McLEAN

Serial No. 10/805,699

Filed: March 22, 2004

For: Apparatus for Removing the Tips
of Tablet Punches

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Group Art Unit 3724

Examiner Kenneth E. Peterson

I hereby certify that this document is being
deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as
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Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA
22313-1450 on Feb 28, 2006
Norman E. Lehrer
Norman E. Lehrer, Reg. No. 26,561

Sir:

RESPONSE

The Office Action of January 30, 2006 has been carefully studied. In view of the
following, examination on the merits of this application is most respectfully requested.

The Examiner has taken the position that there are six separate and distinct
inventions and has required restriction amongst them. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

While Applicant understands with respect to Claims 1-6 as being drawn to one
invention and Claims 7-12 as being drawn to another, it is submitted that the Examiner is being
overly technical in taking the position that each of these two groups includes three separate
groups. There is no requirement that each dependent claim include all of the limitations of every
claim in front of it. It is not uncommon to have a base claim with numerous dependent claims
depending from the base claim with additional specific limitations. It is not believed that it would
be burdensome for the Office to have to examine such claims.

depending from the base claim with additional specific limitations. It is not believed that it would be burdensome for the Office to have to examine such claims.

Irrespective of the foregoing, Applicant elects Group III which, according to the Examiner, includes Claims 5 and 6, for further prosecution at this time. It is Applicant's understanding that Claim 1 will also be examined along with Claims 5 and 6.

Respectfully submitted,

STEVEN McLEAN

By: 

Norman E. Lehrer

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Dated: February 28, 2006